



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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Fact Sheet

25 PUBLIC EXAMPLES IN WHICH ICE HAS USED IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO ADDRESS TERRORISM-RELATED THREATS SINCE JANUARY 2004

- 1) **Accused Terrorist Hit with Additional Charge of Naturalization Fraud** – On September 29, 2005, a federal grand jury in Fayetteville, Arkansas, issued a superseding indictment against Arwah J. Jabar, a native of Israel and naturalized U.S. citizen, for naturalization fraud and willfully using the Social Security card of another person. The case began with an anonymous tip about Jabar's intentions to travel to Palestine to join a terrorist organization. On June 14, 2005, FBI agents assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) arrested Jabar, a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Arkansas, on charges of attempting to provide material support to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization. Jabar was apprehended at an airport in Arkansas as he attempted to depart the country. ICE agents on the JTTF conducted the investigation into Jabar's naturalization process. According to the superseding indictment, Jabar knowingly lied on his application for naturalization. The first indictment against Jabar was returned on August 11, 2005 and he was arraigned in early September. Arraignment has not yet been scheduled on the superseding indictment.
- 2) **Two Charged in Superseding Indictment with Providing Material Support to Terrorists** – On September 29, 2005, a federal grand jury in Albany, N.Y. issued a superseding indictment against Yassin Muhiddin Aref and Mohammed Mosharref Hossam, both of Albany, charging them with conspiring to provide and attempting to provide material support to Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistani-based terror organization. Aref was also charged in the superseding indictment with making false statements on his application to adjust his immigration status by denying that he had been a member of a particular organization. He was also charged with making false statements concerning his membership with the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan and his affiliation with the founder of Ansar-al-Islam. ICE agents investigated the immigration-related aspects of this FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force case as they related to Aref's alleged false statements on immigration forms. Aref and Hossam were originally indicted on a variety of criminal charges stemming from a scheme in which they allegedly agreed to launder money paid to them to purchase a shoulder-fired, surface-to-air missile that would later be used in a terrorist attack against a Pakistani diplomat in New York City.

- 3) **Imam of Lodi Mosque Deported to Pakistan After Ties to Al Qaeda Disclosed** – On September 24, 2005, ICE announced that Shabbir Ahmed, the former imam of the mosque in Lodi, California, was removed to Pakistan by ICE after an August 15, 2005 hearing in which he advised an Immigration Judge that he was abandoning his legal right to remain in the United States. ICE agents arrested Ahmed on June 6, 2005 for violating the terms of his religious worker visa. During his removal proceedings, ICE attorneys presented evidence tying the Lodi cleric to the Taliban and Al Qaeda. ICE attorneys argued that Ahmed's long-term objective was to establish a madrassah in California similar to one that he had worked at in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Evidence presented by ICE and the FBI during the immigration proceedings showed that the Pakistani madrassah had been used to recruit individuals to engage in jihad.
- 4) **Member of Hamas Put into Deportation Proceedings** – On September 12, 2005, ICE officials in Philadelphia took custody of Atef Hasan Idais, a Palestinian by birth and a citizen of Jordan, for deportation proceedings after he was convicted and served prison time in the United States for knowingly failing to disclose his membership in Hamas, a U.S. designated terrorist organization, on a student visa application that he submitted under oath to the U.S. government in 2000. ICE and FBI agents originally arrested Idais in Philadelphia in January 2004 for violating the terms of his student visa. Further investigation by ICE and FBI agents ultimately revealed Idais' membership in Hamas and his prior arrest in Israel, leading to the criminal charges against him.
- 5) **Virginia Man Pleads Guilty to Concealing Prior Bomb-Making Training and Membership in Militant Groups** – On July 15, 2005, Maher Amin Jaradat, an Israeli-born Palestinian and naturalized U.S. citizen, pleaded guilty in Alexandria, Virginia to fraudulently procuring U.S. citizenship after an ICE-led Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) investigation. The ICE-led investigation revealed that Jaradat failed to disclose on his U.S. citizenship application that he had been a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in the early 1980s when the DFLP was a designated terrorist organization; that he had studied bomb-making and the use of small arms at a training camp in Syria run by the DFLP; and that he had been a member of Al-Fatah in the early 1980s, when the organization was involved in terrorist attacks and airplane hijackings. ICE agents arrested Jaradat at a Starbucks in Falls Church, Virginia. Jaradat entered the United States in 1988 on a visitor's visa and later married an American citizen.
- 6) **Illinois Man Found Guilty of Lying to Conceal Membership in Militant Group** – On June 16, 2005, Mohammad Azam Hussain of Des Plaines, Illinois, was found guilty on eleven criminal counts, including five counts of making false statements on his application for U.S. citizenship in 2003; four counts of making false statements to government officials; and two counts of falsely claiming U.S. citizenship. The conviction was the result of an investigation by the Chicago offices of ICE and the FBI under the umbrella of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Among other things, prosecutors charged that Hussain concealed that he held a mid-level position in the Haqiqi faction of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) in Pakistan. This faction was responsible for bombings and murders in the 1990s. Hussain admitted to agents that he received training in the use of firearms; regularly carried a handgun; and on occasion an AK-47. Hussain also admitted that he was close to the founder and leader of the Haqiqi faction, Afaq Ahmad, who was arrested in Pakistan in 2004.
- 7) **Lebanese Man Convicted & Sentenced in Conspiracy to Support Hezbollah** – On June 15, 2005, Mahmoud Youssef Kourani, a 34-year-old Lebanese national, was sentenced in Detroit to 54 months imprisonment. After an investigation by FBI and ICE agents in Michigan, Kourani pleaded guilty on

March 1, 2005 to the charge of conspiracy to provide material support to Hezbollah, a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization. The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that Kourani organized and hosted meetings at his Dearborn, Michigan residence during Ramadan of 2002. The meetings featured guest speakers from Lebanon who solicited the participants to make donations to Hezbollah. The money solicited by Kourani's conspiracy was intended to support Hezbollah's "orphans of martyrs" program to benefit the families of those killed in Hezbollah terrorist operations or by Hezbollah's enemies. ICE agents first arrested Kourani in the summer of 2003. The subsequent investigation into his terrorist activities was a joint effort of the FBI and ICE.

- 8) ICE Removes Admitted Member of Terror Group to Pakistan** – On May 17, 2005 ICE officials in San Francisco removed Khamal Muhammad, 23, a native and citizen of Pakistan, from the United States to Pakistan. ICE agents arrested Muhammad in San Francisco in January 2004 for overstaying the terms of his non-immigrant visa. He subsequently admitted to ICE agents that he had been a member of the Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM) organization in Pakistan, which was designated by the United States as a terrorist organization in 1997. HUM is regarded as a component of Al Qaeda and its leader is believed to be a close associate of Osama bin Laden. Muhammad also admitted he had attended a HUM training camp where he learned to use pistols, rifles, and grenades. ICE attorneys successfully litigated for him to be deported from the country, ultimately prompting Muhammad's attorney to drop his opposition to removal and facilitating the deportation. Muhammad first entered the United States in December 2001 on a V-2 non-immigrant visa based upon a visa petition by his mother.
- 9) ICE Removes Member of Outlawed Pakistani Militant Group** – On May 17, 2005, ICE officials removed from the United States Hamid Sheikh, 41, a native and citizen of Pakistan, who was living in the Philadelphia area. ICE and FBI agents first identified Sheikh in June 2003, when the Philadelphia Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) launched a probe of various individuals in Philadelphia. The JTTF probe identified a local cab driver, Agha Ali Abbas Qazalbash, as a member of Sipah-e-Mohammed Pakistan (SMP) a militant Shia organization in Pakistan. In August 2001, the Pakistani government outlawed the SMP after massacres and killings were attributed to the group. Sheikh was identified by the JTTF investigation as a close friend of Qazalbash. In August 2003, a federal grand jury in Eastern District of Pennsylvania indicted Sheikh on one count of making false statements to federal agents regarding the whereabouts of Qazalbash. In February 2004, Sheikh was convicted and sentenced to 16 months incarceration. Upon completion of his criminal sentence, Sheikh was transferred to ICE custody and charged on security-related grounds as a removable alien. ICE attorneys argued that Sheikh engaged in a criminal activity endangering public safety or national security by lying to federal agents for several days regarding the whereabouts of Qazalbash, allowing him to escape to Pakistan. Under ICE's contention, Sheikh caused federal law enforcement officials to mobilize nearly 50 agents in two states over the course of several days, thereby diverting them from other investigations. In January 2005, an Immigration Judge ordered Sheikh's removal, finding that his criminal conduct could be interpreted as endangering public safety or national security. Sheikh ultimately gave up his legal fight and agreed to be deported back to Pakistan.
- 10) New Orleans Men Convicted & Sentenced For Conspiring to Provide Support to Terrorists After ICE Probe** – On May 20, 2005, Cedric Carpenter and Lamont Ranson were sentenced in Mississippi for their involvement in a conspiracy to sell false documents to individuals they believed were members of Abu Sayyaf, a Philippines-based group that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization. The investigation was conducted by ICE agents in Mississippi. Carpenter was sentenced to 63 months of imprisonment; to be followed by three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay a \$2000 fine. Ranson was sentenced to 29 months of imprisonment; to be followed by three years of supervised release and also was fined \$2000. Both defendants entered guilty pleas in late February

of this year in Jackson, Mississippi, where the defendants had traveled during the conspiracy. Ranson and Carpenter pled guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a known terrorist organization. Carpenter, whose status as a convicted felon prohibited him from owning a gun, also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm at the time of his arrest in New Orleans.

11) ICE Deports Terrorist Who Hijacked & Blew Up Airliner – On March 29, 2005, a Lebanese terrorist convicted in Washington, D.C. of leading the hijacking of a Jordanian airliner and later blowing it up as it sat on the tarmac was deported to Lebanon by ICE officials. Fawaz Yunis was convicted in March 1989 in the District of Columbia of conspiracy, aircraft piracy and hostage-taking in the 1985 hijacking of Royal Jordanian Airlines Flight 402 in Beirut. Yunis was taken into custody Feb. 18, 2005 by ICE as he was released from federal prison in Petersburg, Va. Back in 1985, Yunis and four other heavily armed terrorists seized the Royal Jordanian airliner in Beirut and threatened to kill their hostages - including two U.S. citizens-- unless their political demands were met. After two unsuccessful attempts to fly to Tunis, the hijackers returned the plane to Beirut, where they released the hostages, blew up the plane and then fled from the airport. Yunis was subsequently brought to justice by U.S. law enforcement in 1987. Yunis, who is affiliated with the Amal Militia in Lebanon, was the first international terrorist to be apprehended overseas and brought back to the United States to stand trial.

12) Former Holy Land Foundation Official Ordered Removed from the U.S. – On February 8, 2005, a U.S. Immigration Judge ordered that a Jordanian national who served as a key fund-raiser for an organization suspected of funneling money to the terrorist group Hamas must leave the United States. Based on evidence presented by ICE, the judge found that former Holy Land Foundation leader Abdel Jabbar Hamdan was ineligible for relief from removal. The judge's finding was based upon evidence presented by ICE that Hamdan knew or should have known that his fund-raising activities provided material support to a terrorist organization. During Hamdan's immigration hearings, ICE attorneys introduced videotapes, as well as excerpts from his past speeches and writings. In her decision, the Immigration Judge commented specifically on the videotapes, which depicted the 44-year-old standing in front of a Hamas flag while asking for money. In the videotape there is a call for Jihad, and praise for martyrdom and bloodletting. The judge found that this contradicted Hamdan's defense that he did not know the money was intended for Hamas. From 1990, until the Dallas-based Holy Land Foundation was shut down by the federal government, Hamdan served as the primary spokesperson and fund-raiser for the organization in Southern California. Hamdan was arrested by ICE agents on July 27, 2004 and placed in immigration proceedings. He was charged with violating the terms of his student visa and living in the United States without valid immigration documents.

13) ICE Deports Terrorist to India After 16-Year Legal Battle – On February 3, 2005, a terrorist's 16-year fight to avoid being deported from the United States ended when ICE officers escorted him back to his native India. The deportation of Charenjit Singh, 43--who was found by a federal U.S. court to have engaged in terrorism, supported terrorists and who was linked to two terrorist organizations in India--was the result of a precedent-setting September 2004 decision by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Singh was arrested and placed in deportation proceedings on September 1989, two days after he illegally entered the United States near El Paso, Texas. After initially being ordered deported for failing to attend his immigration hearing, Singh successfully petitioned the Immigration Court to reopen his case and have it transferred to Philadelphia where he eventually filed an application for lawful permanent resident status in the United States. His case was finally heard in January 1997 and in February 1998 an Immigration Judge granted Singh lawful permanent resident status, despite his admitted membership in two terrorist groups. ICE appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals, arguing that Singh was never eligible for legal status in the United States because of his membership in the terrorist groups. One of those organizations, Babbar Khalsa, is officially designated by the U.S. Department of State as a terrorist organization. The Board of Immigration Appeals sustained ICE's appeal on February 25, 2003, and ordered Singh deported. Singh appealed to

the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the Board's decision. ICE agents arrested Singh again on September 27, 2004, and he was held in Philadelphia until his deportation.

14) ICE Deports Algerian Who Associated with 9/11 Hijackers – On December 31, 2004, ICE deported an Algerian man who used a false passport to enter the United States and later met with two of the 9/11 hijackers in San Diego prior to their attacks on the Pentagon. Samir Abdoun, 38, was escorted from the United States to Algeria by ICE officers. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, ICE special agents learned that Abdoun had previously met with hijackers Nawaf al Hazmi and Khalid al Mihdhar, two of the four "muscle" terrorists aboard American Airlines Flight 77 when it was flown into the Pentagon. ICE agents arrested Abdoun on Sept. 22, 2001, after agents identified him as a fugitive in hiding who had been ordered deported by a federal immigration judge in 1999. Abdoun told agents he had lived for a time with four San Diego men, all of whom were housemates of Hazmi and Mihdhar. One of the roommates, Mohdar Abdullah, introduced Abdoun to Hazmi and Mihdhar. These four individuals were arrested shortly after the 9/11 attacks as material witnesses in the Pentagon investigation. Border Patrol agents had initially arrested Abdoun in November 1998. The ensuing investigation revealed that Abdoun had entered the country illegally by claiming to be a French citizen and by presenting a false passport when he first arrived in Los Angeles. Abdoun was placed in removal proceedings. However, he failed to appear in court. A judge subsequently ordered Abdoun removed from the country. After he was located in September 2001, Abdoun was convicted on criminal charges related to immigration, passport, and Social Security fraud. Abdoun was sentenced July 23, 2002 to time served and three years supervised release, and then was transferred to ICE custody to be deported.

15) Man Who Plotted to Assassinate Saudi Leader Convicted & Sentenced to 23 Years in Prison – On October 15, 2004, a federal judge in Alexandria, Va., sentenced Abdurahman Alamoudi to 23 years in prison for his false statements on a U.S. citizenship application; for a tax offense; and for his illegal financial transactions with Libya -- including his participation in a Libyan government sponsored plot to assassinate the leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Abdullah. The sentence and guilty plea by Alamoudi, a once-prominent leader of several U.S. Muslim charitable organizations, resulted from an extensive investigation led by ICE agents, with assistance from the FBI and the IRS, in northern Virginia. On July 30, 2004, Alamoudi pleaded guilty to conducting illegal transactions with Libya; false statements in his application for naturalization to the United States; and a tax offense involving a long-term scheme to conceal his financial transactions with Libya. As part of the plea, Alamoudi admitted his participation in a plot to kill the Saudi leader by introducing Libyan government officials to Saudi dissidents in London and by facilitating the transfer of hundreds of thousands of dollars to these Saudi dissidents to finance the assassination plot.

16) Egyptian Convicted of Lying About Business Deals with Hamas Leader – On October 12, 2004, a federal jury in Alexandria, Va., convicted Soliman S. Biheiri, a 52-year-old native of Egypt, of one count of making false statements to ICE agents. The jury found that Biheiri had deliberately deceived ICE agents during a June 2003 interview in which he told agents that he had no business or personal ties to Mousa Abu Marzook, a designated terrorist and a leader of Hamas, after arriving in the United States on a flight from Egypt. At trial, the government presented evidence that Biheiri had managed funds for Marzook both before and after Marzook was designated as a terrorist by the U.S. government in 1995. Specifically, the government presented files seized from Biheiri's computer showing that Marzook had invested \$1 million in U.S. business ventures managed by Biheiri and his now-defunct Islamic investment firm BMI, Inc. Biheiri was first arrested by ICE agents in June 2003 pursuant to a material witness warrant issued by the Eastern District of Virginia and was subsequently indicted on three counts of immigration violations. In October 2003, Biheiri was convicted at trial of unlawful procurement of naturalization and making a false oath in a matter relating to naturalization. In January 2004, Biheiri was sentenced to 12 months confinement, fined \$15,000, and ordered to serve three years supervised release. He was later indicted on the false statements charge above.

- 17) Two Individuals Charged in Florida with Providing Material Support to Terrorists** – On September 16, 2004, a federal grand jury in Miami indicted Adham Amin Hassoun and Mohamed Hesham Youssef, on charges of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and providing material support. The indictment included eight additional counts against Hassoun, a Palestinian national in Florida, on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, false statements, perjury, and obstruction of court proceedings. Hassoun is in custody on prior charges. Youssef is in custody in Egypt serving a sentence for other terrorist activities. The indictment resulted from an investigation by the FBI, ICE and the ATF. The charges allege that Hassoun engaged in recruiting and fundraising to send individuals, including Youssef and an un-indicted co-conspirator, to overseas conflicts for the purpose of fighting jihad.
- 18) Terrorist Training Camp Participant Removed to Pakistan** – On August 26, 2004, Sajjad Nasser, 29, arrived in Pakistan after being removed from the United States by ICE officers. Nasser, who had been in U.S. custody since March 2004, was convicted in Denver in December 2003 for possessing counterfeit immigration documents. He was sentenced to time served. Subsequently, ICE attorneys fought for his removal from the United States, arguing that his participation in a training camp in Pakistan sponsored by Jaish-e-Mohammed amounted to providing material support to a terrorist organization. In June 2004, an independent Immigration Judge ordered Nasser removed from the country on the basis that participation in such a training camp is a form of providing material support to a terrorist organization.
- 19) Terror Fundraiser Removed to Jordan** – On August 24, 2004, Ayman Sabri Ismail, a 34-year-old Jordanian citizen, was deported from the United States to Jordan by ICE officers. Ismail had entered the United States on a student visa in 1990, but violated the terms of his visa when he began working in this country. He was later determined to have worked as a web designer and a fundraiser for the Holy Land Foundation in Richardson, Texas, a charity that provided financial support to Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization. Documents seized from the Holy Land Foundation showed that Ismail had a significant fundraising role at the charity. On July 30, 2004, a federal immigration judge ruled that Ismail's ties to terrorism made him ineligible to receive immigration benefits. Ismail waived an appeal of the ruling, which prompted his removal.
- 20) Charity and Seven of its Leaders Charged With Providing Material Support to Hamas** – On July 26, 2004, a federal grand jury in Dallas indicted the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and seven of its leaders on charges of providing material support to Hamas, a designated terrorist organization. The indictment was the result of a joint investigation by the FBI, ICE, and the IRS under the auspices of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Among other violations, the Holy Land Foundation and its members are accused of having illegally sent \$12.4 million since 1995 to support Hamas and its goal of creating a Palestinian state by eliminating the state of Israel through violent jihad. During this period, the Holy Land Foundation represented itself as a legitimate tax-exempt organization that funded humanitarian causes in Palestine. The indictment also charges the defendants with engaging in prohibited financial transactions with terrorists, money laundering, conspiracy, and filing false tax returns.
- 21) Ohio Imam Convicted of Lying About Terror Ties to Obtain U.S. Citizenship** – On June 18, 2004, a federal jury in Akron, Ohio, convicted Fawaz Mohammed Damrah of unlawfully obtaining U.S. citizenship through a false application in which he concealed from the U.S. government his membership in or affiliation with 1) the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a.k.a. the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; 2) the Afghan Refugees Services, Inc., a.k.a. Al-Kifah Refugee Center; and 3) the Islamic Committee for Palestine. The indictment further alleged that Damrah concealed the fact that he had, prior to his application for U.S. citizenship, “incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution” of Jews and others by advocating violent terrorist attacks against Jews and others. The

prosecution and guilty verdict followed an investigation by ICE, the FBI, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Ohio.

- 22) Somali Charged With Providing Material Support to Al Qaeda** – On June 10, 2004, Nuradin M. Abdi, a Somali national living in Columbus, Ohio, was charged in a four-count indictment with conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and to Al Qaeda. Abdi was also charged with fraudulently obtaining and using U.S. immigration and travel documents. The indictment charges that Abdi had fraudulently obtained a U.S. immigration travel document after concealing his planned travels to Africa to obtain military training for violent jihad. Detention documents filed in the case also allege that Abdi conspired with a convicted Al-Qaeda operative to blow up a shopping mall in Columbus, Ohio. The Al-Qaeda operative, Iyman Faris, is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence for providing material support and conspiracy to provide material support to Al Qaeda. ICE agents first detained Abdi on administrative immigration violations on November 28, 2003 after receiving information that he planned to blow up a shopping mall. The material support to terrorism indictment against Abdi that ultimately resulted stemmed from an extensive investigation by ICE, FBI, and Southern Ohio Joint Terrorism Task Force.
- 23) Material Witness in 9/11 Probe Deported** – On May 27, 2004, 26-year-old Mohdar Abdullah, a Yemeni national held as a material witness in connection with the 9/11 terrorist attacks, arrived in Yemen after being deported by ICE officials. Abdullah was arrested shortly after 9/11 and was found to have helped two of the 9/11 hijackers obtain Social Security cards, driver's licenses, and information on flight schools. Abdullah was later convicted of immigration fraud and, after serving his sentence, was ordered removed from the country.
- 24) Saudi with Ties to 9/11 Hijackers Arrested, Departs the Country** – On May 27, 2004, ICE agents in San Diego arrested 34-year-old Hasan Saddiq Faseh Alddin, a Saudi national and U.S. legal permanent resident, on immigration charges resulting from two prior convictions for domestic violence. The arrest stemmed from a Joint Terrorism Task Force probe. In September 2001, Alddin roomed with a close friend of two of the 9/11 hijackers, Nawaf Alhamzi and Khalid al-Mihdhar. Alddin's roommate departed the country the day before the 9/11 attacks. ICE placed Alddin in deportation proceedings. He has since departed the country.
- 25) Suspected Terrorist Removed to Syria** – On January 23, 2004, ICE officials removed a 36-year-old former Boston cabdriver, Nabil Al-Marabh, to Syria after a federal immigration judge ruled that Al-Marabh posed a threat to U.S. national security and was associated with a known Jordanian terrorist. The Immigration Judge found that Al-Marabh was specifically linked to Raed Hijazi, a Jordanian who has been designated as a terrorist by the U.S. government in connection with a bombing plot in Jordan. Al-Marabh had also trained and fought with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan, the judge ruled.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.